



INVESTIGATOR'S ANNUAL REPORT

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

All or some of the information you provide may become available to the public.

OMB # (1024-0236)
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Form No. (10-226)

Reporting Year: 2009	Park: Shenandoah NP	Select the type of permit this report addresses: Scientific Study	
Name of principal investigator or responsible official: Michael Mengak		Office Phone: 706-583-8096	
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Additional investigators or key field assistants (first name, last name, office phone, office email)			
Name: Steven Castleberry		Phone: 706-542-3929	
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Project Title (maximum 300 characters): Survey of the status of the Allegheny Woodrat (<i>Neotoma migister</i>) in Virginia			
Park-assigned Study or Activity #: SHEN-00363	Park-assigned Permit #: SHEN-2009-SCI-0007	Permit Start Date: Apr 06, 2009	Permit Expiration Date: Jun 30, 2011
Scientific Study Starting Date: Apr 06, 2009		Estimated Scientific Study Ending Date: Jun 30, 2011	
For either a Scientific Study or a Science Education Activity, the status is: Continuing		For a Scientific Study that is completed, please check each of the following that applies: <input type="checkbox"/> A final report has been provided to the park or will be provided to the park within the next two years <input type="checkbox"/> Copies of field notes, data files, photos, or other study records, as agreed, have been provided to the park <input type="checkbox"/> All collected and retained specimens have been cataloged into the NPS catalog system and NPS has processed loan agreements as needed	
Activity Type: Monitoring			
Subject/Discipline: Mammals			

Purpose of Scientific Study or Science Education Activity during the reporting year (maximum 4000 characters):

Survey historical sites for the presence/absence of the Allegheny woodrat. Collect biological data on individuals captured and habitat data for each site sampled.

Findings and status of Scientific Study or accomplishments of Science Education Activity during the reporting year (maximum 4000 characters):

Within Shenandoah National Park, 29 locations were trapped. Twenty-three (79%) of the locations resulted in the capture of at least one Allegheny woodrat. Of the 23 occupied sites, 12 (52%) were previously known to be occupied by Allegheny woodrats during status surveys conducted between 1990 and 1995. Therefore, 11 new woodrat locations were identified in this survey year (2009). Of

the six survey sites trapped during summer 2009 and that were not occupied in 2009, four had previously been trapped (1990-1995) and three of these four had previously been occupied by woodrats. The occupancy status (occupied - unoccupied) of a habitat site often changes with change in landscape condition and general status of the woodrat population so the lack of captures at any given site is not alarming. The overall capture success (79%) of sites occupied is a positive indication that the woodrat population was secure in 2009. However, the caveat is that sites frequently are occupied by few individuals (1-4 is typical) and a site can often and quickly lose status as "occupied". This seems to be a normal occurrence in woodrat metapopulation dynamics. Only repeated long-term monitoring can detect widespread trends in woodrat population abundance.

For Scientific Studies (not Science Education Activities), were any specimens collected and removed from the park but not destroyed during analysis? Yes If "Yes", identify where the specimens currently are stored: Ear tissue and blood was collected for DNA analysis. Samples are stored at the Warnell School, University of Georgia.	
Funding specifically used in this park this reporting year that was provided by NPS (enter dollar amount): \$0	Funding specifically used in this park this reporting year that was provided by all other sources (enter dollar amount): \$14000
List any other U.S. Government Agencies supporting this study or activity and the funding each provided this reporting year: 	

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: A federal agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. Public reporting for this collection of information is estimated to average 1.625 hours per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the forms. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to Dr. John G. Dennis, Natural Resources (3127 MIB), National Park Service, 1849 C Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20240.
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